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REMARKS

The present response is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on April 01, 2003, made Final. Claims 1-30 are pending for examination. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 16-17, 20, 22-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekhter et al. ("Tag Switching Architecture"), hereinafter Rekhter, in view of Davie et al. ("Explicit Route Support in MPLS"), hereinafter Davie, and further in view of Semeria ("Multiprotocol Label Switching: Enhancing Routing in the New Public Network"), hereinafter Semeria. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekhter, in view of Davie, and Semeria, and further in view of Woodcock et al., ("Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary"), hereinafter Woodcock. Claims 11-15 and 26-28 are indicated by the Examiner as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicant has carefully studied the prior art cited and applied by the Examiner, and the Examiner's rejections and statements in the instant Office Action. In response, applicant herein accepts the allowable subject matter, and herein amends claims 1, 9 and 10 to include said allowable subject matter, and to recite the new dependencies. Claims 5, 6, 8, 11, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 25 are accordingly herein cancelled.

It is therefore respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered after Final, the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,
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by _____

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